

**Please amend claims 1, 16 and 34 to read as follows:**

AI 1. A method for collection of blood comprising:  
positioning a body portion, from which blood is to be withdrawn, within a shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the body portion and a hand of a user;  
stabilizing the body portion using a digit of the user's hand; and  
inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the body portion such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the user's hand.

AI 16. A method for collection of umbilical cord blood comprising:  
positioning an umbilical cord within a shield member;  
stabilizing the umbilical cord using a digit of the user's hand; and  
contacting the cord with a blood extraction device.

AI 34. A method for collection of blood from an umbilical cord (cord blood), comprising:  
providing a shield member, one portion of which is configured to be releasably held in one hand of a user and another portion of which is configured to releasably receive the umbilical cord, wherein the another portion includes a surface recess extending along an axis of the shield member, in which is received the umbilical cord and wherein the recess and the one portion are each arcuate in cross-section;  
holding a shield member with one hand of a user;  
positioning the umbilical cord within the shield member such that the shield member is generally disposed between the umbilical cord and the one hand;  
stabilizing the umbilical cord using a digit of the user's hand while holding the shield member using the one hand;  
inserting an insertion member of a blood extraction device into the umbilical cord using another hand of the user such that the shield member is generally disposed between the insertion member and the one hand; and  
withdrawing the cord blood from the umbilical using the blood extraction device.